

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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S E C R E T USNATO 5064

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-81

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: NEW U.S. DATA

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

REF: STATE 207385

BEGIN SUMMARY: SENIOR POLADS ON OCTOBER 23 AGREED TO REFER NEW U.S. DATA ON GROUND FORCE MANPOWER IN THE NATO GUIDELINES AREA (REFTEL) TO MBFR WORKING GROUP FOR INSTRUCTED CONSIDERATION AT OCTOBER 30 MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP. CANADIAN REP EXPRESSED HOPE THAT REVISIONS BY U.S. OF DATA HAD NOW ENDED BUT EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT GLARING DIFFERENCE BETWEEN U.S. FIGURES CIRCULATED ON OCTOBER 19 AND RESULTS OF RECENT INTELLIGENCE MEETING, CHAIRED BY THE U.S., ON TABLES OF ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT (TO AND E). CHAIRMAN (KASTL) AND TUTCH (BUWALDA) ALSO INQUIRED INTO DISCREPANCY. FOR DETAILED FIGURES COMPARING U.S. OCTOBER 19 DATA AND DATA RESULTING FROM TO AND E CONFERENCE.

ACTION REQUESTED: MBFR WORKING GROUP WILL MEET UNDER  
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INSTRUCTIONS ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, IN EFFORT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON CATEGORIES OF DATA CONTAINED IN U.S. PAPER, SO THAT NATO CAN PROVIDE ALLIED NEGOTIATORS IN VIENNA WITH GENERALIZED FIGURES ON MAJOR CATEGORIES OF FORCES. FOR THAT MEETING, MISSION WILL

NEED RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS LISTED BELOW IN PARA 5. IF WASHINGTON CONSIDERS THAT THE ASSISTANCE OF DATA EXPERTS WILL BE NECESSARY TO EXPLAIN NEW DATA, WE HOPE THAT THEY CAN ARRIVE BY OPENING OF BUSINESS OCTOBER 29 AT THE LATEST, IN ORDER TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH MISSION OFFICERS PRIOR TO WORKING GROUP MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. U.S. REP OPENED DISCUSSION BY RECALLING THE REQUEST IN HIS OCTOBER 19 LETTER THAT THE SPC PROMPTLY FORWARD THE NEW U.S. PAPER ON MODIFIED DATA TO THE MBFR WORKING GROUP. HE HOPED THAT THE WORKING GROUP COULD HAVE AN INSTRUCTED MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, IN ORDER TO REACH AGREEMENT ON CATEGORIES OF DATA IN U.S. OCTOBER 19 PAPER AND REPORT BACK TO SPC BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK. U.S. REP RECOGNIZED THE DIFFICULTIES IN REACHING AGREEMENT QUICKLY ON PRECISE FIGURES, BUT HOPED THAT THE WORKING GROUP COULD PRODUCE IN SHORT ORDER AGREEMENT ON THESE MAJOR NUMBERS FOR INTERNAL USE IN THE AD HOC GROUP. IN VIENNA.

2. CANADIAN REP (MARSHALL) SAID HE COULD ACCEPT U.S. PROCEDURAL SUGGESTION, BUT WOULD WANT THE U.S. REP IN THE WORKING GROUP TO ANSWER A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS. MARSHALL WAS "BEMUSED" BY NEW DATA. THIS IS THE THIRD TIME IN ONLY A MATTER OF MONTHS THAT THE U.S. HAD PRODUCED REVISED FIGURES WHICH HAD THE EFFECT OF INCREASING SOVIET FORCES AND DECREASING NATO FORCES. THIS TREND MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR THE ALLIES TO AGREE ON A FIGURE FOR COMMON CEILING ON NATO AND WARSAW PACT FORCES.

3. MARSHALL POINTED OUT FURTHER THAT AT THE RECENT TO AND E CONFERENCE, CHAIRED BY THE U.S., A SET OF FIGURES WAS PRODUCED, WHICH SHARPLY DIFFERED WITH FIGURES CIRCULATED BY U.S. ON OCTOBER 19. HE WANTED TO KNOW THE RATIONALE FOR THIS DIFFERENCE.

4. U.S. REP SAID THAT, IF ALLIES COULD PROVIDE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS BILATERALLY TO U.S. DELEGATION BY THE END OF THIS WEEK, THESE COULD BE REFERRED TO WASHINGTON IN ORDER TO PREPARE THE  
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U.S. REP ON OCTOBER 30 TO RESPOND IN THE WORKING GROUP. HE NOTED THAT THERE WAS NOT MUCH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE FIGURES IN THE U.S. JULY 27 PAPER AND THE OCTOBER 19 PAPER. HE CITED PARA 3 REFTEL WHICH SAID THAT RE-ANALYSIS WAS NOW COMPLETED. THE GAP BETWEEN FIGURES APPEARS TO BE NARROWING AND U.S. REP HOPED THAT IT WOULD SOON BE POSSIBLE TO REACH A SET OF AGREED FIGURES. IN CONNECTION WITH THE TO AND E CONFERENCE, HE WAS NOT SURE IF THE SAME ASSUMPTIONS WERE USED AS THOSE UNDERLYING OCTOBER 19 FIGURES, AND HE WOULD LOOK INTO THIS MATTER.

5. MARSHALL SAID THAT HE COULD POSE TWO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS IMMEDIATELY: (A) IS THE U.S. SUGGESTING THAT THE ALLIES

SHOULD USE THE U.S. OCTOBER 19 FIGURES IN LIEU OF THE FIGURES RECENTLY AGREED AT THE TO AND E CONFERENCE? (B) IF THE ASSUMPTION WERE INDEED DIFFERENT, WHY WERE THEY, AND TO WHAT EXTENT?

6. FRG REP RANTZAU DOUBTED THAT IN LIGHT OF THE MAJOR DISCREPANCY IN DATA THE DEADLINE SUGGESTED BY THE U.S. REP OF REACHING AGREEMENT BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK COULD BE REACHED. MC REP (CULIN) SAID HE HOPED THAT WORKING GROUP WOULD SOON BE ABLE TO BRING TO AN END THE YEARS-LONG BATTLE OVER DATA HE CIRCULATED CHART (TEXT SEPTEL) COMPARING U.S. OCTOBER 19 AND TOE CONFERENCE FIGURES.

7. SPC CHAIRMAN KASTL SCHEDULED SPC MEETING FOR OCTOBER 31 TO HEAR REPORT OF OCTOBER 30 MBFR WORKING GROUP DISCUSSION.

8. COMMENT: UNLESS THIS NEW PROBLEM OF DATA DISCREPANCY IS RESOLVED PROMPTLY, IT COULD CREATE MAJOR NEW DIFFICULTIES FOR ALLIANCE POSITION ON MBFR. WASHINGTON'S CONVENTIONAL BALANCE BRIEFING TEAM, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BRIEF MILITARY COMMITTEE ON OCTOBER 29, SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR INQUIRIES ON THIS DATA PROBLEM. END COMMENT

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